

Assemblyman **PAUL KORETZ**

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Contact: Teresa Stark
916-319-2042
916-715-2203 (cell)

ASSEMBLYMAN KORETZ REJECTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TARGETING GAY FAMILIES

(Sacramento) Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) responded today to the Traditional Values Coalition announcement that they will seek a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in California.

“Supporting a constitutional ban on gay marriage is to support the taking of children from their parents, the denial of pension benefits to the elderly, and the non-payment of child support. This is the ugly truth about the marriage status quo and it is far meaner than the bullying of a schoolyard homophobe,” said Assemblyman Koretz.

“California’s new domestic partnership law is an attempt to rectify some of the worst injustices in family law, but without the moniker of marriage, basic family protections are not portable across state and national boundaries. Gay and lesbian families have no legal standing to fight child custody battles across state or national borders, no power to resist those who would deny them human dignity in hospital visitation, the unification of bi-national families, or the burial arrangements for their loved ones.

“Far too many good people have been sold the myth of an ‘attack on marriage.’ These constitutional amendments against gay and lesbian Americans are scapegoat politics at its worst. They appeal to the meanest common denominator that distrusts diversity, would silence minority dissent, and is willing to perpetuate the cruelest injustice just because difference makes them uncomfortable.

“There is no attack on marriage in America, there is only a shining hope that all sisters, brothers, and parents will one day be afforded the most basic family law protections regardless of where they live or travel and regardless of whether the parents are gay or straight,” said Koretz.

“I will fight for marriage equality with every tool at my disposal and will resist these veiled attempts to sow seeds of hate in the name of moral values. The true moral imperative for government is to protect children and families with an expansion of civil marriage to include gay and lesbian couples. That is why I am proud to be a joint author of Assemblyman Mark Leno’s new bill to bring marriage equality to California,” said Koretz.

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